for catering the needs of armed forces for such shoes|boots?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) All stores are purchased after strict inspection of quality specifications|standards.

(d) The details of orders placed for boots and shoes are as under:—

		OEF/PSUs	Private sector (through DGS&D)
90-91	Qty ordered	4,00,000	26395
	Value	Rs. 7.32 Cr.	Rs. 45.12 lakh
91-92	Qty ordered	5,43,525	1,43,525
	Value	Rs. 10.04 Cr.	Rs. 1.91 Cr.
92-93	Qty ordered	4,00,000	1,845
	Value	Rs. 11.75 Cr.	Rs. 2.65 lakh

(e) After booking the capacity of the Ordnance Equipment Factory, orders are placed on PSUs for the balance quantities, on the basis of guidelines issued by the Department of Public Enterprises regarding purchases from PSUs. Only if they are unable to accept the order for any reason, the procurement is made through DGS&D.

Plight of CSD Canteen Employees

4073. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Deputy Director General Canteen Services Army HQ, New Delhi had issued instructions to OC Units for the retrenchment of the Civilian canteen employees;

(b) if so, whether the services of the CSD canteen employees of Kharga, Ambala, Pune Sub Area etc. were terminated illegally and fresh employees appointed on contract basis;

(c) whether Government are aware of the news item which appeared in daily 'Rashtriya Sahara' of 27th September, 1992 under the caption 'Raksha Mantralaya Ki Canteen men Civilian Karmchariyon Ki Sthiti Bahut Dayniya Hai'; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to stop the prevalance of the bonded labour system in Defence Canteens and to mitigate the sufferings of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) Unit Run Canteens (U.R.Cs.) are retail outlets for sale of consumer goods to Defence personnel and other entitled categories. These U.R.Cs. are owned and controlled by the Units|Formations of the Armed Forces, run under their private Regimental arrangements, out of their own funds. The Government has no jurisdiction over the U.R.Cs. The terms and conditions of service of the employees of the U.R.C. are determined by the managements of the U.S.Cs. concerned and may vary from case to case.

A letter was issued by the Deputy Director General, Canteen Services, Army HQrs, on 10-12-1990, making a suggestion to all the Command Headquarters, to consider issuing instructions to their Formations|Units to

employ uniformed personnel in the U.R.Cs to the extent possible. The aforesaid letter was withdrawn through another letter, issued on 10-12-91, cancelling the earlier letter.

The services of the employees of U.R.Cs at Kharga, Ambala, Pune Sub Area etc. were not terminated pursuant to any instructions of the Government, but either because their service conditions did not permit their retention or because the employees had violated the rules and regulations of the U.R.C. concerned.

Government is aware of the news item appearing on 30-9-1992 in 'Rashtriya Sahara' under the caption 'Raksha Mantrayala Ki Canteen men Civilian Karmachariyon Ki Sthiti Bahut Dayniya Hai'. Inquiries have revealed that it is incorrect to conclude that a bonded labour system prevails in the U.R.Cs or that the employees are subjected to any suffering, requiring mitigation through Government intervention.

Sale of Arms and Ammunitions by Foreign Companies

4074. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of some foreign companies dealing in arms and ammunitions;

(b) if so, what are the names of such companies;

(c) whether a company named M|s D'silva Locomotive Europe (India) is also engaged in supplying guns and small arms to some private organisations without the consent of the Government; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken or is being taken against the said company?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) There are a large number of foreign companies dealing with the production and supply of arms and ammunition. Without reference to the specific nature of arms and ammunition, it is not possible to collect country-wise information of the names of all companies which deal with the supply of such stores. This Ministry does not maintain such information.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Defence has no dealings with this Company.

Abandoning of Light Combat Aircraft

4075. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of funds spent so far on the Light Combat Aircraft project and the stage at which it stands at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that Govment now propose to abandon the project as it is facing problems regarding procurement|development of engine, frame, electronic components and other avionic systems required for its completion; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) A sum of Rs. 481 crores has been spent upto Nov 92 on the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) project. After completion of Project Definition Phase (PDP), the Full Scale Engineering Development (FSED) commenced in April 90 and would be carried out in two phases. Critical technologies for LCA are planned to be demonstrated in phase I of FSED. Phase II envisages intergration of various other technologies being deve-